

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

Entry of this amendment after final action is in order because it:

1. Does not open up any new issues or fields of search.
2. Corrects a typographical error in claim 13 ("hole" not "hold").
3. Overcomes a new-matter rejection by canceling the alleged new matter (welded bottom edges).
4. Eliminates redundant claim 9.
5. Places the case in better condition for appeal.

The welded-together bottom edges of the side panels are no longer recited in the main claim, obviating any need to amend the drawing. This feature is not, however, new matter. Original translated claim 1 recited "two adjacent side panels (8 and 9) welded together at side (6 and 7) and bottom edges." Thus this feature is original subject matter, not new matter.

The typographical error "hand holds" in claim 13 has been corrected to "hand holes," thereby mooting the §112 rejection.

The new rejection on US 7,207,716 of Buchanan and JP 3-29753 of Nagaoka lacks features defined in main claim 13. More particularly:

Nagaoka shows in FIGS. 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7 a bag where handles are welded against the inner faces of the side panels and always extend up past the upper edges of these side panels. Thus patches "welded at a respective one of the top edges to the outer face" are not shown or suggested. Nor are patches that when thus welded "extend downward away from the top edge." Buchanan only shows this one embodiment so there is no suggestion in this reference to otherwise mount or orient the handle patches.

Buchanan shows in FIGS. 3 and 4 a trash-compacter bag where handles 18 are apparently poked through middle regions of the side panels and welded to the inner faces thereof, just as in Buchanan. In addition these handles, although they can be flopped over as shown in FIG. 3, normally lie against the outer face extending up toward the upper edge of the side panels as shown in FIG. 1, and in fact they do not even reach the upper edge and cannot extend past it. Thus, as in Buchanan, patches "each welded at a respective one of the top edges to the outer face of a respective one of the side panels" are not shown, nor are handles that lie against the outer faces and extend downward.

Since neither reference shows a handle welded to an outer face and extending downward from a top edge, claimed features of the instant invention are lacking in the applied art. Since both

applied references show a handle apparently welded to an inner face and extending upward, there is clearly no suggestion to otherwise mount the handles, so the §103 rejection on Buchanan and Nagaoka is incorrect and must be withdrawn.

The claims are clearly allowable over the applied art. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

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04 June 2009
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Enclosure: None.